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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MARR, US, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MEDIA HIGHLIGHT GLENN SPEECH,
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ACTION

1. (U) MOST JAPANESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS IN THEIR JUNE 21 EVENING EDITIONS, AND SOME ENGLISH PAPERS ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, RAN KYODO WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON:
A) SENATOR GLENN'S SENATE SPEECH URGING THE JAPANESE TO INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING; AND
B) THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ATTACHING TO A MILITARY CONSTRUCTION BILL RESTRICTIVE LANGUAGE THREATENING TO HOLD UP APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR MISAWA AIRBASE UNLESS THE GOJ INCREASES ITS OWN APPROPRIATIONS FOR MISAWA IN ITS FY-85 BUDGET TO A LEVEL GREATER THAN THAT ALREADY COMMITTED IN ITS FY-84 BUDGET.

2. (C) AT PRESENT THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES OF THE GOJ, INCLUDING THE JDA, ARE PREPARING DRAFT BUDGETS PRIOR TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE ANNOUNCEMENT IN JULY OF THE BUDGET "CEILING" -- THE PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S BUDGET FOR THE JFY-85 BUDGET. AS USUAL, MEDIA ATTENTION IS ATTRACTED PRIMARILY TO THE DEFENSE BUDGET (SEPTET), AND IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, BOTH PRESS ATTENTION AND PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL OPINION ARE MORE THAN USUALLY SENSITIZED TO DEFENSE-RELATED NEWS ITEMS COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON, ESPECIALLY IF THEY CAN BE RELATED TO THE WIDE-RANGING DEFENSE BUDGET DEBATE IN JAPAN.

3. (C) EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT OF GLENN SPEECH AND ALSO ACCOUNT OF REPORTED ACTION IN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, INCLUDING DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF IMPACT AND OF FURTHER POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

CLARK

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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